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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

International migration and development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.62

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 7, 9, 11, 15 and 18 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.62, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006 and also decide that the High-level Dialogue will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

(b) Also decide that the High-level Dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables;

(c) Decide that the round tables will be open to all Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, including its relevant special rapporteurs, and the International Organization for Migration, as well as to other relevant regional and international intergovernmental organizations that have observer status, and also decide that the round tables will be organized as follows:

(i) The first set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the afternoon of the first day of the High-level Dialogue;

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(ii) The second set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the morning of the second day of the High-level Dialogue;

(iii) Summaries of the deliberations of the four round-table sessions will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue;

(d) Further decide to hold, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings in 2006 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, to be presided over by the President of the General Assembly, and request the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to the High-level Dialogue in September 2006;

(e) Request the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education;

(f) Invite the President of the General Assembly, within existing resources, in consultation with Member States, and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize prior to the High-level Dialogue up to two panel discussions with a focus on its overall theme.

II. Activities by which the proposals would be implemented

2. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.62, the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of the General Assembly would be held for two days, on 14 and 15 September 2006, with two meetings per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and with interpretation services in all six languages. Documentation requirements for the High-level Dialogue are estimated at 32 pages of pre-session and 16 pages of post-session documentation to be issued in all six languages. Verbatim records would be provided in all six languages in accordance with the entitlement of the General Assembly to conference services. The associated costs for meeting servicing and interpretation, pre- and post-session documentation and verbatim records are estimated at $276,000. Costs for common support services are estimated at $10,400.

3. In accordance with paragraphs 7 and 9 of the draft resolution, the four round tables, consisting of a first set of two interactive round tables to be held concurrently in the afternoon of the first day and the second set of two interactive round tables to be held concurrently in the morning of the second day, will not require additional documentation. Meeting servicing and interpretation will, however, be provided at an estimated cost of $44,800, and associated costs for common support services are expected to be about $10,400.

4. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that a one-day informal interactive hearing would be held with two meetings for the day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with interpretation services provided in all six languages. There would be no pre-session or in-session documentation requirements. The post-session documentation requirements are estimated at 16 pages to be issued in all six languages. The associated costs for meeting servicing,

interpretation and post-session documentation are estimated at $53,200, and costs for common support services are expected to be about $5,200.

5. In regard to paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, it is estimated that meeting servicing and interpretation to be provided for up to two panel discussions to be held with interpretation services in all six languages will cost $21,900, and common support services are estimated at $5,200. There would be no documentation requirements for the panel discussions.

III. Additional requirements for the biennium 2006-2007

6. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.62, the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the round tables, the panel discussions and the interactive hearings would constitute an addition to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2006, which has been submitted for approval by the General Assembly in the report of the Committee on Conferences.[1] Since the High-level Dialogue would be held in plenary meetings of the General Assembly, resources of $276,000 and $10,400 estimated for servicing the meetings would be met within the entitlements to be provided for meetings of the Assembly under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the 2006-2007 proposed programme budget.

7. The Secretariat understands that the interactive hearings and the panel discussions would be held during times when the General Assembly or one of its working groups is not meeting. The exact dates for the informal interactive hearings in July 2006 and the two panel discussions in early September will therefore be determined in consultation between the substantive secretariat and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, subject to the programme of work of the General Assembly. The informal interactive hearings and the panel discussions would be serviced from within the conference-servicing entitlements of the General Assembly; hence, the meeting-servicing and interpretation requirements and 16 pages of post-session documentation of the hearings, estimated at $53,200, and the meeting-servicing and interpretation requirements of the panel discussions, estimated at $21,900, would be absorbed within the provisions proposed under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. Similarly, the estimates of $5,200 for each activity for common support services would be absorbed within the provisions to be made available for section 28D of the proposed programme budget.

8. Following a review of the proposed programme of work under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, it is considered that requirements for the four round tables, also constituting an addition to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2006, would extend beyond the absorptive capacity of provisions to be made under section 2; hence, additional resources of $44,800 would be required for their conference-servicing. Additional resources of $10,400 would also be required under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

9. In connection with the phrases "within existing resources" in paragraphs 11, 15 and 18 of the draft resolution, referred to in paragraphs 1 (d), (e) and (f) above, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the provision of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

IV. Contingency fund

10. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

V. Conclusion

11. **Additional provisions of $55,200 (representing $44,800 for section 2 and $10,400 for section 28D of the proposed programmed budget) over and above the resources initially proposed for 2006-2007 would be required for the holding of four round tables. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within sections 2 and 28D that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium to meet the total additional requirement of $55,200. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriations for the biennium 2006-2007 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/60/32).